

TO: Commissioner Michael Gongora, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Maui Goodbeer – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: January 17, 2012

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 17,

2012.

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Committee Chair Commissioner Michael Gongora, Gabriole Van Bryce, Liliam Furst, Lanette Sobel, Luiz Rodrigues, Debra Leibowitz and Mitch Novick

Absentees: Maui Goodbeer

City Staff: Duncan Ballantyne, Assistant City Manager, Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director, Elizabeth Wheaton, Acting Environmental Resources Manager, Jose Smith, City Attorney, Raul Aguila, Chief Deputy City Attorney and Debora Turner, First Assistant City Attorney.

1. Minutes review. The Committee reviewed December's meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes, moved by Luiz Rodrigues, seconded by Gabriole Van Bryce.

2. Updates.

- a. Recycling Ordinance: Recycling Ordinance went to finance committee Thursday, January 19th. Debra Leibowitz agreed to attend on behalf of the committee. Commissioner Michael Gongora proposed reviewing Recycling Ordinance again in February. Debra Leibowitz questioned where appropriated \$50K was going. Jose Smith clarified that money would be used to create an upfront marketing/education campaign and hire a Sustainability Officer under contract. Debra would like to see language added back in Recycling Ordinance in regards to the accountability of recycling haulers reporting violations to Public Works.
- b. Other Recycling: Commissioner Gongora would like to see research about what other cities are doing to reduce distribution of Yellowpages. The Committee is interested in learning more about plastic bag bans. Commissioner Gongora will get an update on opinion for incentivizing decreased use of plastic bags, and provide that update to the Committee.

- 3. Sustainability Committee Work Plan.
 - **a. Discussion of Committee Work Plan 2012-** The Committee discussed different topics to add to future meeting agendas.
 - 1) February- Recycling and Earth Day event.
 - 2) March- Electric Vehicles
 - 3) Future Initiatives: Plastic bag ban, Smoking, LEED, Telephone books
 - b. Economic Development: Energy Economic Zone Program. Ms. Betsy Wheaton provided an overview of the Energy Economic Zone Program (EEZ). The Administration would like to know what are Committee's thoughts and recommendations regarding eligibility for this program. The Committee determined that most of the language is not specific enough and do not feel comfortable approving this ordinance at this time. MOTION: Mr. Raul Aguila recommended that the Committee make a motion to recommend approval on 1st reading subject to ordinance coming back to the Committee between 1st and 2nd reading for further discussion. In addition, Mr. Kevin Crowder, Economic Development Director to attend the next meeting to clarify eligibility criteria and efficiency standards. Moved by Liliam Furst, seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. Passed unanimously.
 - c. Air Quality & Climate Change- Dr. Morris Sunshine presented to the Committee his proposed resolution about regulating auto emissions relative to parked vehicles. He stated that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working for years to control particulates emitted by diesel engines. EPA considers that particulars generated from either diesel or gasoline engines are a threat to people's health. Dr. Sunshine also stated that the legal aspects are complicated. About two years ago, Ms. Debra Turner prepared a memo in regards to this same issue and recommends that the City updates the research. Ms. Turner would like to conduct additional research to ensure what the City has in place is current. MOTION: To support the resolution, moved by Luiz Rodrigues, seconded by Mitch Novick. Passed unanimously. Action: Commissioner Gongora would like the legal department to prepare a memo for his review in order to add to the next Commission agenda.

4. New Business

- a. MiaGreen Expo & Conference- Ms. Wheaton explained that the City will be participating in the event and the theme will be Live, Work, Play. The City will be showcasing the partnerships that the City has with different organizations such as DecoBike, ECOMB etc. Ms. Wheaton requested that the Committee members dedicate some time to represent the Committee at the event.
- **b.** Earth Day 2012- Ms. Wheaton provided the Committee with a brief summary of

past events. The Committee is interested working with John Rosser and the Sustainatopia event as well as the Chamber and DecoBike. She recommended scheduling a sub-committee meeting to brainstorm for this year's Earth Day.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.

FHB/RWS/ESW/pb

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